

Is the British monarchy still relevant today?

Introduction

- Présenter brièvement la monarchie britannique : a *parliamentary monarchy*
- In spite of a growing republican sentiment, still 62% of Brits approve of the institution
- Poser/reformuler la problématique : *To what extent is the British monarchy still justified in today's British society?*

I. The Monarchy's role today : more than a symbol of British identity and tradition

- M represents history/traditions + ceremonial role but no real constitutional power
- Yet : soft power, influence => ex : State visit of DT + influence over Canada and tariffs + Bayeux tapestry and meeting with E. Macron => closer ties with the EU after Brexit

II. A difficult adaption to modern society

- « Out of touch » especially with the youth (cf graphs) and Commonwealth countries that are geographically distant.
- Growing public cost : 132 million pounds a year!
- Anti-monarchy and not My King protests repressed by police under the Public Order Act => anti-democratic, like the Monarchy itself – unelected

III. A role increasingly questioned: towards the end of the monarchy?

- Lack and call for more transparency over their finances
- Uncountability (Prince Andrew / Epstein scandal)
- Link with the slave trade and reparations

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Introduction

The British monarchy is one of the oldest monarchies in the world. Today, the United Kingdom is a parliamentary monarchy, which means that the King is the head of state, but he does not have real political power. In recent years, republican feelings have grown in Britain. However, around 62% of British people still support the monarchy. This raises an important question: **to what extent is the British monarchy still justified in today's British society?**

I. The monarchy's role today: more than a symbol of British identity and tradition

First of all, the monarchy is an important part of British history and traditions. The King represents the country and takes part in many ceremonies and national events. For example, royal weddings, funerals and coronations attract a lot of attention in Britain and around the world. However, the King does not have real constitutional power because political decisions are made by the government and Parliament.

Nevertheless, the monarchy can have an important role through **soft power**. The royal family can improve the United Kingdom's image abroad and help develop international relationships. For example, royal meetings with foreign leaders can create closer diplomatic relations. The King's meetings with Donald Trump over tariffs and the American president's threats to annex Canada show that the monarchy can still play a role in international diplomacy. The Bayeux Tapestry project and meetings with European leaders can also help maintain links between Britain and Europe after Brexit.

II. A difficult adaptation to modern society

However, the British monarchy also faces several problems. First, some people, especially young people, consider the monarchy “**out of touch**” with modern society. This is also a problem in some Commonwealth countries, which are geographically far from Britain and do not necessarily feel connected to the royal family.

Another important issue is its cost. The monarchy costs the British public a large amount of money every year, around 132 million pounds in 2025. This creates debate about whether taxpayers should continue to finance an institution that is not elected.

There have also been **protests** against the monarchy, such as “Not My King” protests during Charles the third’s coronation ceremony. Some protesters have been arrested or stopped by the police under the Public Order Act. For critics, this raises questions about freedom of expression and democracy. They argue that it is difficult to defend an **unelected institution** in a modern **democratic society**.

III. A role increasingly questioned: towards the end of the monarchy?

Finally, the monarchy is increasingly questioned because of concerns about transparency and accountability. Many people want to know more about the royal family's finances and how public money is used. Greater transparency could help the institution maintain **public trust**.

The behaviour of some members of the royal family has also damaged its **image**. For example, Prince Andrew's links to Jeffrey Epstein created a major scandal and increased criticism of the royal family. This case raised questions about responsibility and **accountability** within the institution.

Another controversial issue is the historical link between the British monarchy and the **slave trade**. Some people believe that the royal family should recognise this history and support discussions about reparations. This issue is particularly important in some Commonwealth countries, where the history of British colonialism is still remembered.

Conclusion

To conclude, the British monarchy is still relevant today, but its role is changing. It remains an important symbol of British history, tradition and identity, and it can also have diplomatic and cultural influence. However, its cost, lack of transparency, controversial history and distance from younger generations make its future uncertain. In my opinion, the monarchy can survive, but it will have to adapt to modern society and become more transparent if it wants to remain respected and supported by the British people. More broadly, the debate about the British monarchy raises an important question: in modern democracies, can traditional institutions survive while society is becoming more democratic and demanding greater equality?